

Introduction to Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Management



NOAA
FISHERIES

**HMS Management
Division**



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NOAA Fisheries

HMS Management History

1976: Magnuson Fishery Conservation & Management Act passed

1990: “MSA” amended, giving authority to Secretary to manage:

- Atlantic tunas; listed by species
- Atlantic sharks; listed by group
- Atlantic swordfish and billfish; listed by family

- Secretarial Authority delegated to NMFS
- NMFS created HMS Management Division in 1992

1996: “MSA” amended again, renamed Magnuson-Stevens Act

- Required NMFS to establish separate HMS Advisory Panels for each FMP (Billfish & HMS)

HMS Management Overview

Provisions of Magnuson-Stevens Act apply to HMS management (except Council-specific requirements)

- National Standards (Sec. 301)
 - Prevent overfishing
 - Promote safety at sea
 - Minimize bycatch
 - Use best available science
- FMP content requirements (Sec. 303)
 - Contain measures necessary to rebuild overfished stocks
 - Describe and identify essential fish habitat
 - Cumulative impact assessment

Some provisions unique to HMS

- Advisory Panel (Sec. 302(g)(4))
- Certain international considerations (Sec. 304(g)(1))
- Certain FMP requirements (Sec. 304(g)(1))

ICCAT & ATCA

International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT)

- Management recommendations for tunas, billfish, swordfish, and (increasingly) sharks (generally as bycatch)
- Recommendations binding for United States (quotas, minimum sizes, trade restrictions, statistical documents, vessel lists, etc.)
- HMS Management Division implements ICCAT recommendations as necessary & appropriate through regulations under ATCA

Atlantic Tunas Convention Act (ATCA) – 1975

- Domestic legislative authority to implement ICCAT recommendations
- Regulates all fishing activities (including research)
- Limits subsequent action that could increase or decrease any U.S. allocation of quota or F agreed to at ICCAT



HMS AP Process vs. Council Process

HMS AP

AP recommendations *advisory* in nature

NMFS decides what actions to consider and implement

HMS staff seek input of Science Center staff and other experts

AP meets ~ 2x/year

Councils

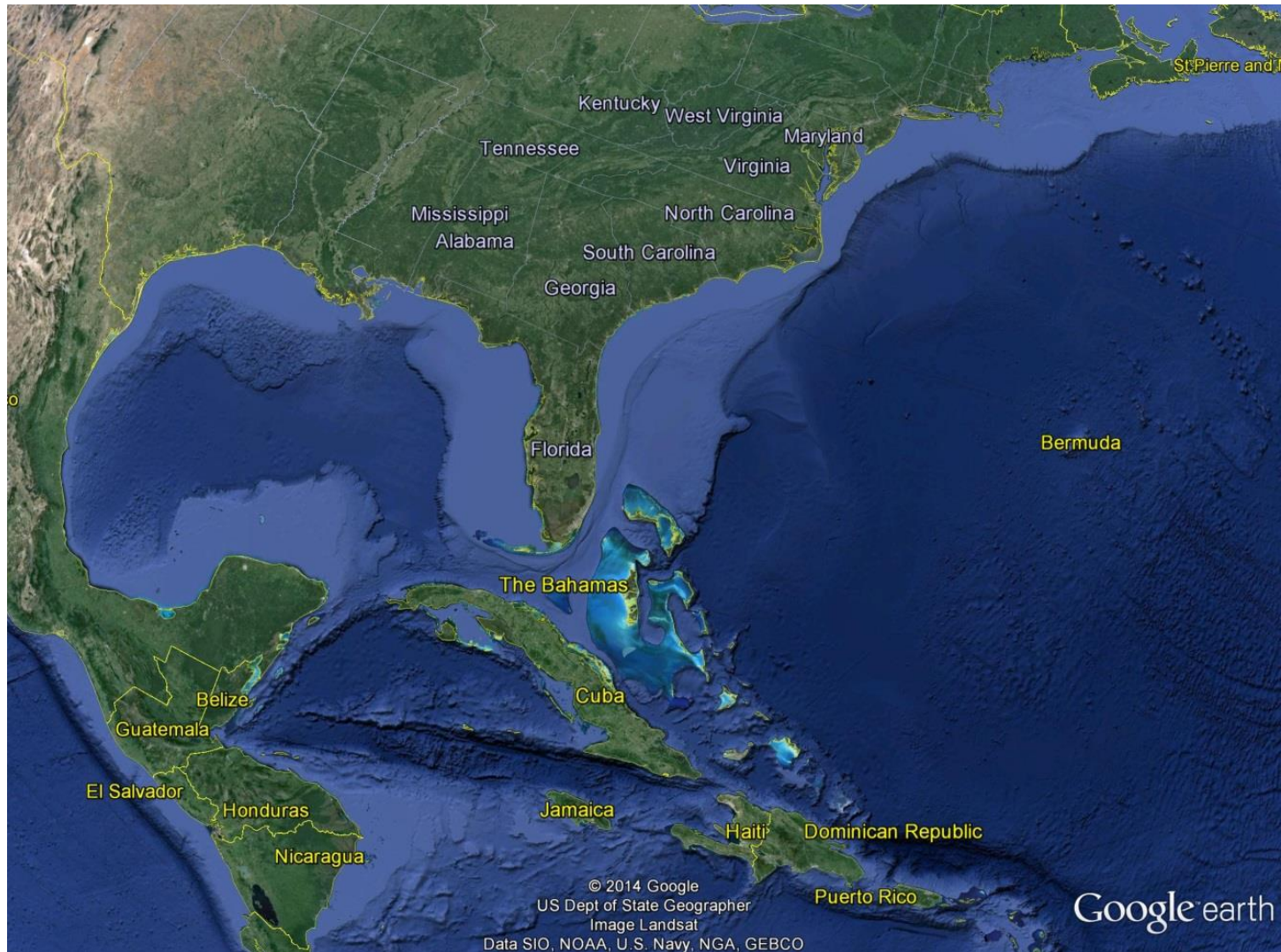
Council members *vote* to approve/disapprove actions to submit to NMFS

NMFS approves or disapproves action

Scientific & Statistical Committees provide expert advice to Council

Councils meet ~ 5x/year

HMS Area of Jurisdiction



HMS Regulatory Actions

FMP Amendment with Environmental Impact Statement

- Scoping & scoping meetings
- Predraft & AP meeting
- Draft Amendment/EIS with proposed rule
- Public hearings & AP meeting
- Final EIS with final rule

Regulatory Amendment with EIS

- Same as FMP Amendment (predraft optional)

Regulatory Amendment with Environmental Assessment

- Draft EA with proposed rule
- Public hearings
- Final EA with final rule

In-season actions and “framework” actions

HMS Operational Infrastructure(A diffuse system)

Permits

Reporting

Vessels

- Recreational
- Charter/Headboat
- Commercial
- Research

- HMS permits website** (HMS/Tuna/Swordfish Open Access)
- SERO** (SHK/SWO/Tuna Limited Access, Commercial Caribbean Small Boat, & Smoothhound)
- HMS HQ** (EFPs)
- HMS SE** (Tournaments)
- GARFO** (Incidental HMS Squid Trawl)

- GARFO** (Commercial VTR/NE FMP)
- SEFSC** (Logbooks, Tournaments, Observers)
- HMS permits website** (BFT catch, Non-Tournament landings)
- S&T HQ** (Recreational LPS, MD & NC)
- HMS HQ** (EFP)
- OIA HQ** (ICCAT)

Dealers

- Domestic
- International

- SERO** (SHK/SWO Domestic)
- GARFO** (Tuna Domestic)
- International** (International Fisheries Trade Permit)

- HMS NE** (BFT Domestic)
- HMS HQ** (e-Dealer for SWO, SHK, BAYS)
- SF NSIL** (International BFT, SWO, BET)
- GARFO** (ONLY w/NE permit)
- SEFSC** (SE/GOM FMPs)

Permit issuance background

- Prior to 1999, HMS vessel permits were issued by GARFO
 - HMS annual average ~ 30,000
 - GARFO annual average ~ 4,350
 - SERO annual average ~ 6,500
- 1999 to Present – HMS Open access permits issued via a web-based program – hmspermits.noaa.gov
- Worked with HMS Advisory Panel, NOAA General Counsel, NOAA OLE is developing web-base system
- System links owner, vessel, and permit data and is designed that all info is tied to the vessel identifier USCG Doc. or State Reg.
- Puts onus on the permit holder to comply with not only NMFS regulations, but also USCG and state regs.
- Website also serves as a reporting portal and information resource.



NMFS Permit Shop

NMFS Permit Shop

Welcome to the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) online Permit Shop, where you can buy and renew federal permits for Atlantic Highly Migratory Species (tunas, billfishes, swordfish, and sharks), update permit information, and report landings of bluefin tuna, blue marlin, white marlin, roundscale spearfish, sailfish, and swordfish.

Permits



Purchase or renew an HMS permit

[View details »](#)

Shark Endorsement - DEMO ONLY

Fish Reporting



Report the catch and landings of bluefin tuna, swordfish, and billfishes

[View details »](#)

Mobile app download

Tournaments



Register an HMS tournament

[View details »](#)

What's New

Preliminary 2018 Commercial BFT Landings

As of November 5, 2018, preliminary commercial landings for the 2018 fishing year are as follows:

[More ...](#)

General category fishery reopening for three days, October 31, 2018 Through November 2, 2018

The BFT General category fishery will reopen for three days within the October through November 2018 subquota period, effective 12:30 a.m., October 31 through 11:30 p.m., November 2, 2018. [More ...](#)

General category October-November bluefin tuna fishery: transfer and closure (October 5)

NMFS transfers 55 mt of Atlantic bluefin tuna to the General category for the October through November 2018 subquota period and closes the fishery 11:30 pm Friday, October 5, 2018, through November 30, 2018. [More ...](#)

[View details »](#)



National Marine Fisheries Service
Customer Service
Phone: 1-888-872-8862
Monday through Friday 8am to 5pm EDT
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Please enter the information requested below to start the application process and click Continue. The "Tab" key may be used to advance from one field to the next.

- 1 Basic Info
- 2 Additional Info
- 3 Category
- 4 Confirm Info
- 5 Review Cart
- 6 Select Delivery
- 7 Confirm Order
- 8 Pay Now

Owner Information

First Name
 Middle Initial
 Last Name
 Suffix
 Owner Type
 Business/Corporation Name
 Address Line One
 Address Line Two
 City
 State
 Zip Code

Note: Please do not include dashes or dots in the phone number.

Daytime Phone Number
 Mobile Phone Number
 Fax Number

Basic Vessel Information

NMFS requires at least one of the following two vessel identifiers. Please provide both if available. Note: Only VALID U.S.C.G. Vessel Documentation numbers or State Registration numbers are acceptable. Temporary registration numbers are NOT allowed.

Coast Guard Documentation

State Registration

(Coast Guard Documentation OR State Registration. State registration numbers may only contain the characters A-Z and 0-9) *

I am the owner/operator of this vessel OR I am fully authorized by the owner/operator to complete this transaction.

You MUST check this box in order to proceed with this transaction.

* Indicates Required Entry

Select Permit

Please review the information. For the permit you select, specify a gear-type, and click select next.

1 Basic Info 2 Additional Info 3 Category 4 Confirm Info 5 Review Cart 6 Select Delivery 7 Confirm Order 8 Pay Now

Below are the permit options for this vessel. DO NOT PROCEED unless you fully understand the differences between each permit and are sure of the permit you wish to select for this vessel.

ANY CORRECTION TO YOUR PERMIT MUST BE DONE WITHIN **45 CALENDAR DAYS** OF THE DATE OF ISSUANCE.

If the permit you are looking for is not listed below, there may be an issue/conflict with the permits already issued to this vessel. Please contact Customer Service at 1-888-872-8862, Monday through Friday, 8am to 5pm EST, for additional assistance.

You currently have a **ANGLING** permit, with **ROD AND REEL** indicated as your primary gear.

SHARK ENDORSEMENT
Shark endorsement will be added to your selected category.

Open Access

ATLANTIC HMS ANGLING
All private vessel owners/operators recreationally fishing for and/or retaining regulated Atlantic Highly Migratory Species (Atlantic tunas, sharks, swordfish and billfish) for personal use in the Atlantic Ocean, including the Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean Sea, must obtain an Atlantic Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Angling permit. 2018 Atlantic HMS Angling permits cost \$20.00 and will be valid from the date of issuance through December 31, 2018.

ATLANTIC TUNAS GENERAL
Owners/operators of vessels fishing commercially for Atlantic bluefin, bigeye, yellowfin, albacore, or skipjack tunas using a combination of rod and reel, harpoon, and/or handlines must obtain a General category permit. This permit is required in the Atlantic, which includes the Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean Sea. Vessels permitted in the General category are eligible to sell giant or large medium bluefin tuna. **This permit is required if fishing in Federal or State waters and because it is a commercial permit the U.S. Coast Guard Safety Gear Regulations will apply. Sale of tuna catch is permitted with this permit. Finally, if fishing is taking place in a registered recreational HMS fishing tournament only, this permit will also allow a vessel to recreationally fish for sharks, swordfish, and/or billfish.**

ATLANTIC HMS CHARTER/HEADBOAT
Owners/operators of charter/headboat vessels fishing for and/or retaining regulated Atlantic Highly Migratory Species (Atlantic tunas, sharks, swordfish and billfish) in the Atlantic Ocean, including the Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean Sea, must obtain an Atlantic Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Charter/Headboat permit. To be eligible for this permit category there MUST be a licensed Coast Guard Captain onboard the vessel during all HMS fishing activities regardless if they are commercial, recreational, or fee based in nature. This permit allows a vessel to fish both commercially for tunas and swordfish, and recreationally for HMS, although not on the same day. This permit is required if fishing in Federal or State waters and because it is a commercial permit the U.S. Coast Guard Safety Gear Regulations may apply. This permit will also allow a vessel to fish in registered recreational HMS fishing tournaments.

CHARTER/HEADBOAT COMMERCIAL SALE ENDORSEMENT
If you want a Charter/Headboat permit, and plan to sell ANY HMS (tuna, swordfish, sharks), then you must add the Charter/Headboat Commercial Sale Endorsement. Note that you will also need to obtain a limited access shark permit if you want to sell sharks. For further information about the Charter/Headboat Commercial Endorsement, click [here](#).

ATLANTIC TUNAS HARPOON
Vessel owners who conduct a commercial harpoon fishery for Atlantic tunas, including large medium and giant bluefin tuna, must obtain a permit in the Harpoon category. Vessels permitted in the Harpoon category may not participate in the General category fishery.

admin.hmspermits.noaa.gov says

WARNING: Selection of the Commercial Sale endorsement subjects your vessel to US Coast Guard safety requirements for commercial fishing vessels, including life rafts, emergency positioning beacons, immersion suits, and other equipment. If you cannot meet these requirements, then you should not select this endorsement, and cannot sell HMS.

OK

Cancel

Select Gear Type *

select

* I fully understand the consequences of my choice of vessel permit category. I have also read and understand the **45-day** category change restriction.

You MUST check this box in order to proceed with this transaction.



NOAA FISHERIES

Application Data Confirmation

Please, check your permit information, documentation number, and category carefully. ANY CORRECTION TO YOUR PERMIT CATEGORY MUST BE DONE WITHIN 45 CALENDAR DAYS OF THE DATE OF ISSUANCE. While we encourage you to print this page for your records and future inquiries, THIS IS NOT YOUR PERMIT.

- 1 Basic Info
- 2 Additional Info
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- 4 **Confirm Info**
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Permit Information

Permit Type: 2018 ATLANTIC HMS
 Shark Endorsement: YES
 CHB Commercial Sale Endorsement: YES
 Permit Category: ATLANTIC HMS CHARTER/HEADBOAT

Owner Information

Name: BRAD MCHALE
 Owner Type: INDIVIDUAL/SOLE PROPRIETOR
 Business Entity Name:
 Email: BRAD.MCHALE@NOAA.GOV
 Address: 55 GREAT REPUBLIC DR
 GLOUCESTER, MA 01930-
 Daytime Phone: (978) 2813236
 Mobile Phone: (978) 5466405
 Fax Number: 5466405

Vessel Information

CG Doc. Number:
 State Reg. Number: MS0032BM
 Vessel Name: PT - 73
 IMO Number:
 Home Port (City, State): GLOUCESTER, MA
 Principal Port (City, State): GLOUCESTER, MA
 Vessel Length (to nearest foot): 19
 Year Built: 2002
 Crew Size: 2
 Construction: FIBERGLASS
 Gross Tonnage: 1
 Propulsion: GASOLINE
 Main Engine Horsepower: 130
 Number of Passengers: 0
 Hold Capacity (if applicable): 0

I certify under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the information given on this form is true and correct, and that I have full authority to execute this form as, or on behalf of, the secured party, lien creditor or encumbrancer indicated herein.

Re-enter Data

Add to Cart

I certify under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the information given on this form is true and correct, and that I have full authority to execute this form as, or on behalf of, the secured party, lien creditor or encumbrancer indicated herein.

Re-enter Data

Add to Cart

HMS Charter/Headboat Permit Revision

ACTION

- Starting with 2018 HMS Charter/Headboat permits - Vessels are prohibited from selling any catch of HMS unless they obtain a “commercial sale” endorsement as part of the permit.

BACKGROUND

- USCG updated its policies in 2016 on dockside examinations and vessel safety requirements for commercial fishing vessels
- These new requirements extend to any fishing vessel that can sell fish, including HMS Charter/Headboat vessels
- HMS Charter/Headboat vessels currently have the ability to sell their catch, however, only about 7% of vessels have sold fish in recent years
- To date: 3,300 HMS Charter/Headboat permits issues, 1,250 w/endorsement (38%)

Purpose of the Action

- This action would create a separate regulatory provision for commercial sale of HMS by Charter/Headboat vessels
- Revised the regulations such that Charter/Headboat vessels that do NOT intend to sell any catch would NOT be subject to the updated USCG safety requirements for commercial fishing vessels
- Charter/Headboat vessels that DO wish to sell their catch WOULD be subject to the USCG safety requirements for “commercial” fishing vessels







Questions?

